

THE PACIFIC Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH -- EDITOR.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15

FOR DELEGATE IN CONGRESS—
SAMUEL PARKER.FOR SENATORS—
HENRY WATERHOUSE,
GEORGE R. CARTER,
CLARENCE L. CRABBE,
CECIL BROWN,
W. C. ACHIL,
FRANK PAHIA.

FOR REPRESENTATIVES—

L. L. McCANDLESS,
J. L. KAULUKOU,
ENOCH JOHNSON,
L. J. McCABE,
H. R. HITCHCOCK,
W. J. COLEMAN,
A. G. M. ROBERTSON,
J. W. KEIKI,
WILLIAM AYLETT,
A. F. GILFILLAN,
WILLIAM H. HOOGE,
JONAH KUMALAE.

All reports agree that Sam Parker is growing stronger as the canvass progresses.

By the way? Is there a sidewalk and paving ring waiting for a newspaper organ to work up sentiment in its favor?

While the Republican party of Hawaii is having a fight for life on its hands where, O where is National Committeeman Sewall?

The announcement at Hilo that Hawaiian voters were getting ready to knife Brother Loebenstein was promptly followed by an earthquake.

Crocker promises New York to Bryan by 100,000 majority. In 1896 the city went for McKinley by 50,000. It looks very much as if Crocker had taken a bigger contract in politics than he did in ice.

A paper stated, ostensibly, as a straight-out Republican organ but which spends half its time attacking the Republican Territorial officials and the other half trying to make dissension in the party ranks, is likely to be of few days and full of trouble.

Several hundred of Wilcox's followers have signed a petition asking A. V. Gear to run as an independent nominee for the Legislature. Wilcox thinks that Gear might get enough votes to beat a Republican and thus give the Independents another man. Mr. Gear, judging from the circumstances of his retirement from the fight for a nomination is not likely to fall into the third party trap.

Niebuhr, the greatest German thinker of his time, preceded his countryman, Carl Schurz, as a discoverer of Imperialism in America. Writing in 1894 he said:

"Alas, how freedom is expiring on every side. I have received American papers, from which it is undeniably evident whether Jefferson's party are travelling. The regulations making in Louisiana are such that the President there will be a complete monarch."

Then it was Jefferson; now it is McKinley.

Australian cable schemes do not develop much faster than the American Trans-Pacific cable enterprises. The subject evokes vague Parliamentary promises and little more. There is reason to suspect that Australia would be glad, for a few years to come, to avail herself of the proposed American cable, connection with which could be had via Singapore and Manila. Feeling is now so kindly between the two great Anglo-Saxon powers that the argument for a cable exclusively in British control is not so impressive as it once was, especially when the earnings of a British cable are computed in the light of its cost.

It is a monotonous untruth that the native Hawaiians have been cheated out of their lands by the missionaries or the sugar planters or anybody else. On Maui, the bulk of the sugar plantations were formerly arid lands that nobody wanted, and have been made valuable only by the outlay of vast sums for irrigating ditches and pumps. The two lands of Maui are principally owned by Hawaiians, save what they have sold for high prices, and this is the only land which is of any value whatever to the Hawaiians—Maui News.

What is true of Maui is true of all the other islands. So far as the missionaries and the respectable white traders are concerned, they have treated the natives fairly—far more so than the old Alis did in the matter of land and better than the white man ever did the natives of any other Pacific group.

What is the purpose of catechizing George R. Carter or anybody else as to his position towards the Republican municipal plank? That plank pledges the party to give Hawaiian cities municipal rule "when practicable." Every Republican can stand on it, as the plank commits him to nothing beyond the acceptance of municipal charters whenever the time shall come in which they ought to be accepted. Establish such a condition and we have no doubt that Mr. Carter, like the Advertiser, will be out for city government. As no such change is "practicable" now what political difference does it make what any one's private opinion about municipalities for Hawaii may be?

We do not know why the good work done by certain Honolulu correspondents of the Coast press should blind the local newspapers and the public to the bad work done by others. Mr. Pollitz's statement that the worst side of plantation news is sent to San Francisco is true and the reason is that it sells better than favorable news. Let a plantation make a record-breaking yield and the fact will not be published; let it have trouble with labor and the fact is likely to be exaggerated in the Coast papers. Witness, for example, some of the sensational yarns that appear from time to time under Honolulu date lines in the Examiner and Call. The fault is undoubtedly in the space system which tempts a writer to season his narrative so it will please the editorial buyer, rather than to keep down to the unsalable commonplaces of truth.

INVITING A PLAGUE.

Without desire to arraign any department of the local government but merely to advise and warn, the Advertiser hoists, this morning, some plain danger signals. The city, despite the hard work of men like Dr. Pratt, is getting filthy again; some of the worst abuses are connected with public buildings, including schools; actions brought against the owners of pest holes are treated with indifference by the courts and requests for the cleaning up of nasty places directly under the control and the nostrils of the government lead to nothing but procrastination. The truth is that Honolulu is repeating the history of those years of neglect of simple sanitary rules which followed the unlearned lesson of the cholera scourge and which preceded the visitation of the black death.

The city is taking serious chances. It is on a sea route between San Francisco, which was lately infected with the bubonic plague and ports of Asia which are always more or less affected by some form of pestilence. It is also in trade with the Colonies where the bubonic malady has shown itself since early spring. One steamer, regularly stopping here (the Coptic) lately had rats dead of bubonic plague in its hold and was held in quarantine because of a human victim. We are putting Honolulu in such a state that if an infected rat comes ashore from any of these ships it will find the city ripe for infection. We are dirty and don't care.

Yet the courts have it in their power to apply a partial remedy. If they would give the limit of the law to every property-owner convicted of maintaining a public nuisance, the area of filth would soon become healthfully less. As to the Government itself, if it winks at nuisances, perhaps the courts could find no way to interfere; but we can guarantee the courts that if they will deal in just severity with private offenders the press will soon shame public ones into decency and Honolulu will be clean again.

SQUANDERING NATURE'S CAPITAL.

"As we approached the arid shores of Oahu," is a passage in "The Wrecker" which has, doubtless, surprised thousands of readers whose knowledge of these Islands came from the pages of Stoddard or Mark Twain or from a reasonable interpretation of the phrase "The Paradise of the Pacific." "Arid shores" when one expected a tropical luxuriance of shade and color; the starved flanks of desert uplands rather than a riot of vegetation over a feast of fat soil! God forbid! and yet the word "arid" precisely describes the look of Oahu from the decks of an approaching vessel.

These shores were not always bare and grey and the mountain forests were not always shrinking from sight into upland valleys or poisoning on uttermost ridges as if they were ready to leap over them at the approach of the axman. Native tradition is full of arboreal pictures; of forests crowding down upon the foothills and sending advance columns of trees to the shore where they cast their shadows on the tide. Those were the days of flashing cascades and full-banked streams and of a super-abundant rainfall. Then came the traders after sandal wood and the chiefs sent hundreds of men into the country to bring the fragrant wood to market. In a few years the sandal wood groves were nearly gone. Cattle, hogs and goats ran wild and multiplied to the fatal damage of young trees and shrubs. Finally vast upland tracts were cleared for cattle ranges or accidentally burnt over. Then came clearing for cane. The earlier sugar mills used forest fuel and tens of thousands of cords went up the smokestacks. On Oahu the original trees were driven back as in later years they have been from the shores of certain parts of the volcano island; until now they cluster timidly on the highest points—and Oahu begins to suffer the unhappiness of periodical droughts. One does not often nor for long see the Manoa cascades; the normal artesian level is decreasing; there are places at Kalihi and farther Waikiki and near the Waiānāe mountains where a downpour is a rarity. But for the dooryard verdure and the blooms of exotic trees in Honolulu and its environs—growths that come of personal care and of the facilities for irrigation—this would often seem like a desert spot indeed, save for the green of rice and cane.

Some day, unless the ounce of prevention is applied, Oahu and all the islands will be veridreless as so many of the bird islands are, or like islets of the frozen north. Clear an island of all its trees—that is to say, a mountainous island—and it stands to reason that two things will happen to keep the water that falls from the clouds from doing the land any good. In the first place the rain, which is now held captive by millions of leaves, by moss, and by the spongy woodland earth, would flow rapidly away in mountain streams carrying the arable soil with it or be licked up on the stark table lands by the process of evaporation. It is the province of forests to not only attract rain but to hold it, gradually letting the water run to where it is needed and giving springs and artesian reservoirs their due supply. It is, on the other hand, the province of the treeless countries to endure droughts and a high and poignant degree of heat. On the American prairies, now fairly well planted to trees, the rainfall has increased from twenty to forty per cent; on the ancient forest plateaus of Spain, long since denuded of their trees, fertility has vanished; for when it sometimes rains the water all runs off in roaring floods, taking good soil to the sea, and there are months when no rain comes at all. In Shantung where the Boxers rose we have the same phenomena.

These are plain lessons for Hawaii, but what is being done to profit by them? Last month we heard of a big forest fire on the slopes of Haleakala; now comes the story of a contemplated clearance of one thousand wooded acres; public forests are auctioned off for farming purposes; goats and wild cattle pursue their devastating courses

almost unchecked; there is little or no attempt at tree planting. Is it not time for a policy of forest reservation under Territorial auspices or, if the Territory is likely to hang back would it not be wise to invoke the land policy of the Federal Government? Surely something must be done or, to the "arid shores of Oahu" some future writer will truthfully add phrases about its "desert valleys" and its "bleak mountain tops" and of the general desolation of the group.

Speaking of trusts it remains true that the only Federal law against them (Sherman Act) was passed by Republicans and that the attempt in the last Congress to strengthen it by a resolution calling for a Constitutional Amendment prohibiting trusts, was defeated by Democrats.

Barham & Wife, Lawyers.

At the next session of the United States Supreme Court Representative Barham, of California, will make a unique motion for the admission to practice of his son, Edward C. Barham, and his son's wife, Lida D. Barham. The latter studied law and was admitted to the bar before her marriage, and is now her husband's partner at Santa Rosa, under the title of Barham & Barham.

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